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244
EXCISE

Nov 18 7 13 PM '63

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Johnson Bank 244

Origin

ACTION: AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

Info:

INFO: AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 802
AMEMBASSY LONDON 3171
AMEMBASSY PARIS 2571
AMEMBASSY SAIGON 826
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 423
CINCPAC.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Trifley*

DATE

10/9/80

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

CINCPAC for POLAD.

Re Sihanouk's threats and Khmer Serci.

Department concurs in general lines your 370 and recognizes your need for flexibility to cope with rapidly changing situation. We agree fully with view paragraph 3 your 370 that it is essential avoid air of mystery around our slowdown on various aspects of aid programs, in order not inflame Sihanouk's suspicions. Accordingly in discussions with RKG ~~and other parties~~ you should when necessary ~~when necessary~~ explain our initial actions, if ~~necessary~~ convenient through USAID and MAAG, emphasizing that such actions are not repeat not spurred by any motive other than prudence.

We are concerned rather about timing of broad high level political approach to RKG and in this connection solicit your views on following points:

We see considerable advantage in not repeat not pressing Cambodians for clarification of RKG intentions at too early a stage. We doubt any RKG official (excepting perhaps Sihanouk) yet in position give such clarification,

as indicated

Drafted by:

FE:SEA:DNA:zac:da

11/18/63

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

SEA - Norman E. Hannah

Clearances:

FE - Mr Rice

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as indicated by inconclusive remarks by Acting Foreign Secretary Phurissara (your 372) and by unsuccessful French attempt (Deptel 240 NOTAL). To force Cambodians reach decisions before moderating influences and repercussions from initial RKG economic measures have had chance take effect does not appear be in our interest. It is to our advantage delay ~~any further approach~~ introducing this subject into official channels of communication between USG and RKG.

It appears to us that at some point in not too distant future you will have to seek clarification from only authoritative source, namely Sihanouk. However as suggested by above paragraph we do not repeat not feel moment for this has arrived, particularly in view his ~~state of mind~~ state of mind (your 371). *Pal 15-1 Camb B1, ED*

Consequently Department doubts desirability of making further ~~broader~~ *political level* approaches at this time to request clarification, either in Phnom Penh or in Washington. You should continue use your discretion in exploiting social contacts or business talks by US officials with RKG counterparts to explore situation.

GP-3

END

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